

Message Text

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SUBJECT: LABOR: LABOR LEADERSHIP CRITICAL OF MANAGEMENT
TACTICS IN RECENT INDUSTRIAL STRIFE

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1. WITHIN THE PAST TWO DAYS, TWO SEPARATE ATTACKS HAVE
BEEN MADE AGAINST "CERTAIN MANAGEMENT CIRCLES" FOR THE
TACTICS THEY HAVE EMPLOYED IN RECENT INSTANCES OF
INDUSTRIAL STRIFE. IN REMARKS DELIVERED ON JULY 7,
ATHENS LABOR CENTER PRESIDENT CHRISTOS KARAKITOS SPOKE
DISPARAGINGLY OF THOSE EMPLOYERS WHO "DURING THE DICTA-
TORSHIP BECAME RICH AT THE EXPENSE OF THE WORKERS
AND WHO CONTINUE TO ENJOY THE LION'S SHARE OF THE
NATIONAL INCOME".

2. IN THIS LATTER REGARD, HE SINGLED OUT GREEK
INDUSTRIALIST STRATIS ANDREADIS FOR SPECIAL
MENTION, SUGGESTING THAT BY THE TACTICS HE EMPLOYED AT
HIS ELEFSIS SHIPYARDS DURING RECENT LABOR DIFFICULTIES
THERE (INVOLVING INTER ALIA THE DISMISSAL OF UNION
OFFICIALS), HE "FACILITATED THE WORK OF IRRESPONSIBLE
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AND EXTREMIST ELEMENTS" WITHIN THE LABOR SECTOR, WHO

THEN PROCEEDED TO EXPLOIT THE INDIGNATION OF THE WORKERS BY CONDUCTING ANARCHIC ACTIVITY "WHICH EXCEEDED THE BOUNDS OF LEGITIMATE AND DEMOCRATIC TRADE UNION ACTIVITY".

3. IN A STATEMENT ISSUED THE FOLLOWING DAY, THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE GREEK CONFEDERATION OF GREEK WORKERS (GSEE), OF WHICH KARAKITSOS IS THE SECRETARY GENERAL, PLAYED ON THE SAME THEME. THE GSEE ASSERTED THAT THOSE EMPLOYERS WHO REACT TO TRADE UNION ACTIVITY BY TERRORISM AND DISMISSALS AIM AT THE CREATION OF A CLIMATE OF CONFUSION AND POLITICAL ANOMALY IN THE COUNTRY. SUCH A NEGATIVE STAND ON THE PART OF MANAGEMENT, CONTINUED THE GSEE, FOSTERS CONDITIONS WHICH UNDERMINE SOCIAL HARMONY AND DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES. ACCORDINGLY THE GOVERNMENT MUST TAKE BASIC AND DECISIVE MEASURES TO PROTECT THE RIGHTS OF THE WORKERS.

4. THESE TWO CRITICAL STATEMENTS DIRECTED AT CERTAIN EMPLOYER CIRCLES TEND TO "BALANCE" THE SHARP WORDS OF CENSURE PUT AT "LABOR'S DOOR" BY THE GOVERNMENT AND THE GSEE IN RECENT STATEMENTS ATTACKING "EXTREMISTS" IN THE LABOR MOVEMENT (REFTELS). IT IS POSSIBLE THAT LABOR LEADERS NOW FEEL THAT TOO MUCH OF THE ONUS OF BLAME IN RECENT WEEKS WAS PUT ON THE "WORKERS", AND THAT EMPLOYERS, THROUGH THE ATHENS LABOR CENTER AND GSEE STATEMENTS, SHOULD ALSO BE PUT ON NOTICE THAT THEY BEAR SOME OF THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR RECENT EXAMPLES OF EXTREMISM IN STRIKES. AT THE SAME TIME WE ALSO BELIEVE THESE STATEMENTS REFLECT THE SINCERE CONCERN OF THE GSEE'S LEADERSHIP OVER THE THREAT OF EXTREMISM IN THE LABOR MOVEMENT WHICH CAN THREATEN ITS DEMOCRATIC EVOLUTION AND DEVELOPMENT.

KUBISCH

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